

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Claims 1-24 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 25-34 are added through this Reply. Therefore, claims 1-34 are pending. Claims 1 and 15 are independent.

SCOPE OF CLAIMS NOT ALTERED

Claims have been amended merely to address informal issues and to enhance clarity. It is intended that the scope of the claims is not narrowed by the amendments.

RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT WITHDRAWN

Applicants thank the Examiner for withdrawing the Restriction Requirement of September 20, 2005.

§ 102 REJECTION – ISHIKAWA

Claims 15-21 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ishikawa et al. (US Patent 6,414,733). Applicants respectfully traverse.

In this instance, Ishikawa fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed element. For example, independent claim 15 recites, in part “forming a plurality of seal patterns in the second region including the plurality of supporting patterns.” In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the sealing member 4 and the shielding member 14 as disclosed in Ishikawa (*see Figures 1-4 of Ishikawa*) are equivalent to the seal patterns and the supporting patterns as recited.

Ishikawa indicates that a liquid crystal display includes a color filter substrate provided with a color layer in a display zone. Outside of the display zone, Ishikawa clearly discloses that one sealing member is disposed outside of the display zone to seal the liquid crystal layer between the upper and lower substrates. *See Ishikawa, column 5, lines 47-55.* In other words, there is a single sealing member. This is very much like the related art of the present disclosure in which only a single seal pattern 16 is provided. *See Figure 2A of the present disclosure.* Thus, Ishikawa cannot teach or suggest the feature of “a plurality of seal patterns” as recited in claim 15.

Ishika also states a single shielding member. *See Ishikawa, column 5, lines 55-60.* Thus, contrary to the Examiner’s allegation, Ishikawa also does not teach or suggest the feature of “a plurality of supporting patterns” as recited in claim 15.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claim 15 is distinguishable over Ishikawa. Claims 16-21 and 24 depend from independent claim 15 directly or indirectly. Therefore, for at least due to the dependency thereon, these dependent claims are also distinguishable over Ishikawa.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 15-21 and 24 based on Ishikawa be withdrawn.

§ 102 REJECTION – MANABE

Claims 1-4, 11-17 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Manabe et al. (US Patent 6,570,639). Applicants respectfully traverse.

In this instance, Manabe fails to teach or suggest each and every claimed element. For example, independent claim 1 recites, in part “a plurality of seal patterns in the second region including the plurality of supporting patterns.” In the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that the outer edge sealing member 25 as disclosed in Manabe (*see Figures 1A, 1B and 1C of Manabe*) is equivalent to the seal patterns as recited.

Manabe indicates that a liquid crystal display is provided with an array substrate 110 and a counter substrate 120. On the array substrate 110, a plurality of pixel electrodes are disposed. The device is formed by sandwiching

a liquid crystal layer 70 in between the array substrate 110 and the counter substrate 120. *See Manabe, Figure 1A; column 3, lines 60-67.*

Manabe further discloses that the liquid crystal cell includes one outer edge sealing member 25 formed along the outer periphery of a shield area 41. *See Manabe, column 5, line 66 – column 6, line 3; Figure 2.* In other words, there is only a single outer edge sealing member. Again, this is very much like the single seal pattern 16 of the related art of the present disclosure. *See Figure 2A of the present disclosure.* Thus, Manabe cannot teach or suggest the feature of “a plurality of seal patterns” as recited in claim 1.

Similarly, independent claim 15 recites, in part “forming a plurality of seal patterns in the second region including the plurality of supporting patterns.” Clearly, Manabe cannot teach or suggest at least this feature.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claims 1 and 15 are distinguishable over Manabe. Claims 2-4, 11-14, 16-17 and 24 depend from independent claims 1 and 15 directly or indirectly. Therefore, for at least due to the dependency thereon, these dependent claims are also distinguishable over Manabe.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-4, 11-17 and 24 based on Manabe be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – MANABE, ISHIKAWA

Claims 5-10 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Manabe in view of Ishikawa. Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 5-10 depend from independent claim 1 directly or indirectly. It is demonstrated above that the claim 1 is distinguishable over Manabe and Ishikawa is not relied upon to cure at least the above noted deficiencies of Manabe. Therefore, claim 1 is distinguishable over the combination of Manabe and Ishikawa. For at least due to the dependency thereon, claims 5-10 are also distinguishable over the combination of Manabe and Ishikawa.

Claim 21 depends from independent claim 15. It is demonstrated above that claim 15 is distinguishable over both Manabe and Ishikawa. Combining the two references fails to cure each other's deficiencies. Therefore, claim 15 is distinguishable over the combination of Manabe and Ishikawa. For at least due to the dependency thereon, claim 21 is also distinguishable over the combination of Manabe and Ishikawa.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5-10 and 21 based on Manabe and Ishikawa be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – MANABE, LEE

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Manabe in view of Lee (US Publication 2002/0063837). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 22 depends from independent claim 15. It is demonstrated above that claim 1 is distinguishable over Manabe and Lee is not relied upon to cure at least the above noted deficiencies of Manabe. Therefore, claim 15 is distinguishable over the combination of Manabe and Lee. For at least due to the dependency thereon, claim 22 is also distinguishable over the combination of Manabe and Lee.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 22 based on Manabe and Lee be withdrawn.

§ 103 REJECTION – MANABE, HIROSHIMA

Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Manabe in view of Hiroshima et al. (US Patent 6,705,584). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 23 depends from independent claim 15. It is demonstrated above that claim 1 is distinguishable over the combination of Manabe and Hiroshima is not relied upon to cure at least the above noted deficiencies of Manabe.

Therefore, claim 15 is distinguishable over the combination of Manabe and Hiroshima. For at least due to the dependency thereon, claim 23 is also distinguishable over the combination of Manabe and Hiroshima.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 23 based on Manabe and Hiroshima be withdrawn.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 25-34 are added through this reply. All new claims are believed to be distinguishable over the cited references, individually or in any combination for at least due to their dependency from independent claims 1 and 15. Applicants respectfully request that the new claims be allowed.

CONCLUSION

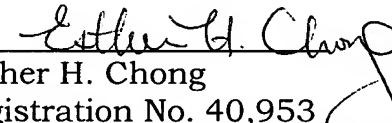
All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Hyung Sohn (Reg. No. 44,346), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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